







Two young Sudanese boys smile as they collect corn kernels on the airstrip as an overland relief food convoy stretches behind them with Kenyan drivers and their Sudan People's Liberation Army escorts

## Sudan likely to give qualified response to rebel ceasefire

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Sudan was likely to give only a qualified response to a ceasefire announced unilaterally by southern rebels despite the prime minister welcoming the move, according to Western diplomats.

"As Garang's announcement stands, it sounds like he is doing the army a favour," said one diplomat. "It smacks of arrogance."

Guerrilla leader John Garang announced the one-month ceasefire Monday, describing it as a gesture of goodwill towards Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government. Garang said he was making the gesture despite the government's failure to implement a peace accord reached last November between his Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Democratic Unionist Party, a member of the ruling coalition.

The diplomats, however, said Sudanese army chiefs viewed as humiliating Garang's condition that the SPLA would consider as a hostile act any troop movement during the ceasefire.

The diplomats said they believed Garang's surprise ceasefire announcement was the result of weeks of pressure on the U.S.-educated former army colonel to respond positively to Khartoum's recent peace overtures.

They said the United States had pressed Garang to make the move, largely on the grounds that it would facilitate the movement of relief supplies to famine victims in south Sudan.

Mahdi has said his government, formed in March under pressure from army generals wanting an end to the war, would match every SPLA move towards a peaceful settlement.

But he said in remarks published Thursday that his government must look into the issue before announcing its official position on the ceasefire.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Mahdi was due to chair a meeting of the national defence council to study the SPLA announcement. The council is the highest government body on military and security issues. Its members include the ministers of defence, interior and finance.

The diplomats, however, said Mahdi was not likely to make any announcement on the issue until Saturday when he is due to give a televised speech.

The independent Khartoum daily Al Sudani said Thursday that the Sudanese military leadership did not feel obliged to observe the ceasefire since it had not received official notification from the SPLA on such a move.

The SPLA, estimated to number about 40,000 men, has been on a winning streak against army troops since late last year. It has captured more than 10 garrison towns since February alone.

It says it has been fighting in the south since 1983 to end what it sees as domination over the vast and oil-rich region by the north.

The diplomats said they believed Khartoum would propose some sort of mechanism should be created to ensure the SPLA did not reinforce its positions during the ceasefire and possibly the creation of a neutral force to monitor the truce.

A major pro-government tribal militia rejected Thursday an SPLA offer of an amnesty in exchange for its surrender.

Anya-tiya Two, a 15,000-strong force that fought alongside the SPLA until 1984, said in a statement it would fight the rebel movement until the end and described Garang's ceasefire announcement as disappointing.

The SPLA has made similar offers to three other southern militias, threatening them with annihilation if they did not accept the offer and surrender by May 31.

## Iraq clears 78 wrecks from Shatt

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has cleared 78 wrecks from the northern part of the Shatt Al-Arab waterway that leads to the Gulf, according to the governor of the southern port city of Basra.

"But the dredging of the southern part, which has the Iranian border on its east bank, must wait for the result of the Iraq-Iran (peace) talks," Governor Anwar Saeed Al Hadithy said Thursday.

The salvaged vessels were crippled in the northern Shatt Al-Arab which runs through Iraqi territory by shelling in the eight-year Gulf war between Iraq and Iran. Hostilities ended last August.

Speaking to reporters in Basra, Hadithy said the U.N.-sponsored Gulf war peace talks aimed at

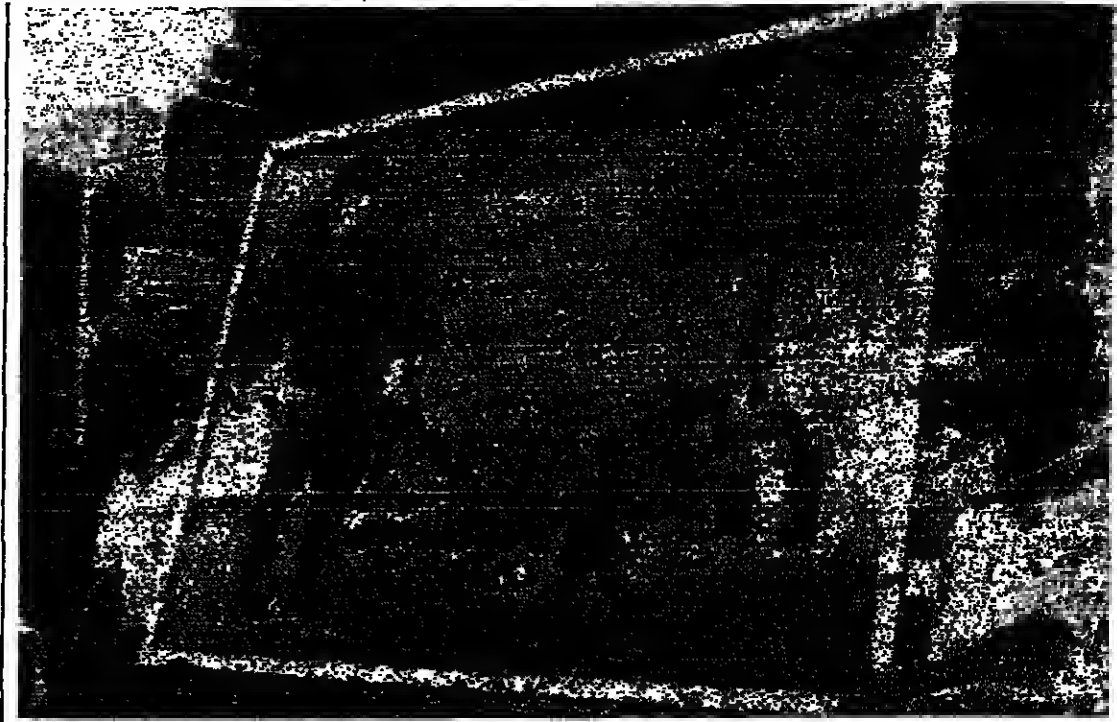
turning the ceasefire into a lasting settlement were being hampered by the Iranians.

"If they succeed in the cleaning of the waterway (it) would need an exceptional international effort," he said.

Iraq insists that the Shatt Al-Arab be cleared so there is free navigation through the waterway to the Gulf before other details of a peace agreement are settled.

Iraq demands that Iraq first withdraw its forces from some 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory it still occupies.

Hadithy said President Saddam Hussein had ordered the payment of about 1,000 dinars (\$3,200) to Basra residents who lost their homes during the war at a cost of 100 million dinars (\$320 million).



Israeli Arab boys parade through Tel Aviv with a poster depicting Palestinian 'David' versus Israeli 'Goliath'

## Carter urges Palestinian-Israeli agreement on free elections

ATLANTA (Agencies) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Thursday he has urged Palestinian leaders privately to accept an Israeli proposal for free elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"I urged them to announce that they would, indeed, accept the outcome of an election in the West Bank and Gaza, that the Palestinians who were elected in these free elections would be authorised to negotiate, at least in the initial stages, transition terms leading up to a final settlement or disposition of the occupied territories," Carter said.

The former president, who mediated the Camp David treaty between Israel and Egypt, told international television executives Israeli and Palestinian must agree on who would be allowed to vote and how such elections would be conducted.

"Are the Arabs who live in East Jerusalem going to be free to vote? Is there going to be a freeing of detainees who are in the camps prior to the vote?" he asked.

"...Is there going to be freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, free



Jimmy Carter

advertising, voting by all those who are qualified as residents? Those kinds of questions, if they are resolved, would be a very major step toward peace and understanding."

### U.S. expresses 'shock'

The administration Thursday expressed shock over an upsurge in "senseless killings" arising from the Palestinian uprising against Israel and condemned the

killings of two elderly Israelis in west Jerusalem.

"We condemn yesterday's senseless and tragic murder of two Israelis, as well as the wounding of three others," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"We are shocked and saddened by the increase in violence and senseless killing arising from confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories," she told reporters.

The two Israelis died after a Palestinian stabbed them on West Jerusalem's main commercial street.

Israel has tried to draw a connection between the attack and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but Tutwiler said the State Department did not have any information on the attacker and declined to blame the PLO.

Tutwiler said attacks like the one of the two Israelis undermine the pursuit for Middle East peace.

"We urge all those who truly seek peace to condemn such acts and to work together to achieve a durable Arab-Israeli peace," she said.

## Iranian television screens confessions by alleged spies

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran Television Thursday showed seven alleged spies, including a Briton, confessing to their guilt in a new weekly programme called "Top Secret."

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, said the six Iranians were among a large group of spies who have been arrested in various parts of Iran.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani disclosed last month that "many nests of spies," all linked to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), have been uncovered and many members have been arrested. But only one of the Iranian spies who appeared on television stated outrightly that he had worked for the Americans.

Other alleged spies were to appear in the series which will be broadcast each Thursday night.

Rafsanjani and other officials have said they would not disclose the exact number of those arrested to avoid providing the CIA with information it may be seeking. But they claimed many of the suspects were military personnel or held sensitive govern-

ment posts. The first to appear on the one-hour show was Roger Cooper, a British businessman arrested Dec. 7, 1985. He was formally charged with espionage a year later and officials have claimed that he also has been tried and sentenced.

But the sentence has not been disclosed. Speaking in Farsi, Cooper, who had lived in Iran for 20 years when arrested, said he thought he could use the information he had gathered over the years "for the benefit of my country."

"I knew that I could help British intelligence in ways," a mustachioed Cooper, 53, said. He wore glasses and spoke calmly. Detailing some of the activities he allegedly undertook, Cooper said, "For instance, when I met people whom I thought would be useful, I would introduce them to the British intelligence service, for whom I worked."

It was not clear if the segment on Cooper was new or a replay of two earlier appearances on Tehran television in which he

made the same confession. The second on the show was a mustachioed man who identified himself as Majid Rashidpour. He said he had been an air force navigator for 19 years until his arrest last year.

He said he had been trained "in the use of codes and ciphers, and invisible ink to pass messages." He did not say who trained him, but that he was while trying to leave Iran "illegally."

Rashidpour said he "had connection with America," but did not elaborate further.

Next appeared Ali Reza Razaq, a frail, dark-haired man who after identifying himself and saying he was "ashamed of my treachery," broke down in tears.

The fourth alleged spy to speak on the programme was Ahmad Behrooz, a stocky grey-haired man who said he was an actor. He also said he was ashamed of his "treachery," and offered his "deep apology to the people of Iran, to the soldiers and to the children who have fought for the country." He gave no other details of what his crime was.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Turkey supplies rifles, machineguns to Sudan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has agreed to supply rifles and machineguns to Sudan which is fighting a rebellion in the south, Turkish officials said Friday. A shipment of 30,000 G-3 automatic rifles and 1,000 MG-3 machineguns worth \$9.6 million will be completed before the end of the year, they said. "We hope the arms will be used to achieve unity in Sudan," Turkish Minister of Industry and Trade Sukru Yurur told reporters. An agreement signed in Ankara Thursday said the arms would be produced by Turkey's state-run MKE arms and ammunition factory under an economic cooperation protocol.

#### Barre annuls death sentence for clergymen

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre has pardoned nine Muslim clergymen who were sentenced to death in 1987, the government said Friday. A government statement said the nine — and another clergyman serving a 15-year jail term — were pardoned to mark the end of Ramadan. The men were tried in secret on charges of conspiring to undermine the unity and sovereignty of Somalia through religious propaganda but the government has never given any details.

#### More drug smugglers hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Twenty-seven drug traffickers convicted by an Islamic court were hanged Thursday in the northern Iranian city of Mashhad, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said the 27 smugglers had been on the wanted list for a long time, for "importing, purchasing, selling and distributing" large quantities of narcotics. IRNA did not specify the amount of narcotics nor did it say when the traffickers were arrested. It said the death sentences, that come under a stringent drug law which took effect Jan. 21, were upheld by the high judicial council. Thursday's hangings brought to 543 the total number of executions under the January law, which calls for the death sentence against those who possess even small quantities of drugs.

#### Iraqi-Saudi microwave networks linked

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Saudi Arabia have completed a microwave link which will begin operating next year, Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi said Thursday. He said the \$16-million link will enable Iraq to use the Saudi telecommunications network to contact the Gulf states, Egypt, Sudan, Europe and the Far East and permit Saudi Arabia to contact Turkey, Jordan and Syria via the Iraqi network.

#### Sudanese president to visit UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Sudanese President Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani will pay an official visit to the United Arab Emirates May 14, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. It did not give the length of the visit.

#### Saudi pardoned Briton held in U.K.

LONDON (R) — A Briton freed from a Saudi Arabian jail where he was serving eight years for murder was arrested Friday after flying into London's Heathrow airport. Police detained engineer Peter Hall, 41, as he stepped out of the aircraft but said the arrest was not connected with any alleged offences in Saudi Arabia. Hall and his wife Monica, 38, were convicted of beating Irish nurse Helen Feeney to death in April 1986 but released from jail this week after King Fahd granted them clemency. A police spokesman said Hall was being driven to Inverness, Scotland, where the warrant for his arrest was issued. Hall's solicitor Paul Malone said he believed the arrest was connected with charges of assault. "There is no connection at all between our warrant and anything that happened in Saudi Arabia," the spokesman said. Hall's wife, who is also Irish, was not detained and was not wanted for questioning, he added.

## U.S. senators seek anti-WHO legislation over PLO entry bid

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Two U.S. senators have introduced legislation to cut off all U.S. contributions to the World Health Organisation (WHO) or to any United Nations agency which gives member state status to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Similar legislation also was introduced in the House of Representatives Thursday.

Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and Senator Robert Kasten, the ranking member of the subcommittee, in a hearing Thursday, endorsed the May 1 statement by Secretary of State James Baker which first called for such an aid cut-off. They were joined by Sen. Arlen Specter in opening statements which strongly condemned the move by the PLO to seek member status in WHO which begins its annual meeting in Geneva May 8.

The Senate subcommittee met to discuss the Bush administration's 1990 fiscal year budget request for international organisations and programmes. Representing the administration were Sandra Vogelgesang, deputy assistant secretary for international organisation affairs and Ambassador Thomas Pickering, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

Senator Kasten said "the Un-

ited Nations faced the most threatening time in its history" because of the PLO move to gain membership in WHO. He said the PLO was not expected to change its mind on its application for membership and warned that the very nature of the debates to consider its membership would politicise the United Nations.

Sen. Specter said he wishes the State Department would reconsider its dialogue with the PLO.

In a prepared statement, Vogelgesang reiterated the Bush Administration's position on the PLO's application for membership to WHO. She stated the following points:

— The self-declared Palestinian "state," which the U.S. does not recognise, does not satisfy the generally accepted criteria under international law for statehood, and thus does not qualify for membership in U.N. agencies;

— The United States is opposed to the introduction of such a divisive political issue into the technical work of the specialised agencies;

— Moreover, we are convinced that any effort to bestow legitimacy on the self-proclaimed Palestinian "state" would harm efforts underway in the region to promote peace. The Arab-Israeli problem can be resolved only through a process of negotiations between the parties, not through unilateral acts by either side — such as the

declaration of Palestinian statehood — that seek to prejudice the outcome of such negotiations."

Both Vogelgesang and Pickering outlined the efforts being undertaken by the United States in Washington, New York and Geneva to address the crisis. There have been high-level meetings with embassy representatives in Washington, and also with WHO's director general, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, according to Vogelgesang.

In answer to a question by Sen. Leahy, Pickering said he was in touch with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He said that the United Nations' view of a state was "exactly like" that held by the United States. He said that in the last two weeks he has met with 15 to 20 U.N. permanent representatives from various countries who share "our deep concern." Pickering said there is "a deep unease in New York at what is going on." He added that the legislative steps taken by Congress will bring home to U.N. members "how disastrous it would be" if the PLO is admitted as a member state to WHO.

Vogelgesang, answering Sen. Leahy, said "comparable efforts" have also been undertaken in Geneva. She also praised the bipartisan support of Congress on the issue.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

04:30 Live transmission for 'Eid Al-Fitr' prayer  
05:45 Religious hymns  
07:00 Religious seminar  
07:20 Children's programme  
10:45 Circus  
15:15 Feature film  
16:25 Arabic play  
18:30 Arabic series  
19:40 Riddle  
20:00 Programme review  
20:30 News in Arabic  
21:30 Arabic series  
23:00 Variety  
23:15 Arabic series  
23:55 Arabic film

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Couilluses  
18:30 Des Chiffres et de Lettres  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Le 10 d'Heure du Proche  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
19:45 Natural Phenomena  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Alfred Hitchcock presents  
21:30 Saturday Variety Show  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 French feature film

#### PRAYER TIMES

03:15 Fajr

04:41 Sunrise  
11:32 Dhuhr  
15:12 'Asr  
18:23 Maghrib  
19:59 Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 623381  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261  
St. Epiphani Church Tel. 771751  
Angels International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will remain partly cloudy and

temperatures will continue decreasing to become below the annual average. Winds will be northerly fresh causing dust in the southern and eastern areas; and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman 14/23  
Aqaba 20/32  
Deserts 20/30  
Jordan Valley 18/27  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamideh 677436  
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 736074  
Dr. Munther Al Qureini 776258  
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawwa 734056  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Al Asma pharmacy 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salma pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeikani pharmacy 637660  
Rescue 199  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 62209093  
Blood Bank 773221  
Highway Police 643402  
Traffic Police 643402  
Public Security Department 6569091  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 62209093  
Blood Bank 773221  
Highway Police 643402  
Traffic Police 643402  
Public Security Department 6569091  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 642462  
Jabal Anasir Maternity 642362  
Malhi, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeikani 6641714  
Shmeikani Hospital 669331  
University Hospital 643402  
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737  
Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646  
Rafiq, Al-Mutajreen 7771013  
Al-Basir, J. Asma 7511126  
Army, Marka 89161115

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)347100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

##### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:55 Baghdad (RJ)  
09:00 New Delhi (RJ)  
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)  
09:10 Damascus (RJ)  
09:20 Cairo (RJ)  
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)  
10:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)  
10:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
10:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:40 Tripoli (RJ)

##### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)  
12:15 Baghdad (IA)  
13:30 Kuwait (KU)  
14:45 Bangkok (LN)  
16:25 Riyadh (SU)  
18:45 Rome (AZ)  
21:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

##### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)  
08:40 Tripoli (RJ)  
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:10 Athens (RJ)  
11:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:00 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 London (RJ)  
12:15 Paris (RJ)  
17:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)  
19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:00 Larnaca (RJ)  
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)

20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:00 Cairo (RJ)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
10:30 Cairo (MS)  
13:00 Baghdad (IA)  
14:35 Kuwait (KU)  
16:45 Kuwait (LN)  
17:45 Riyadh (SU)  
18:55 Damascus (AZ)

##### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.  
Almond 600/500  
Apple 500/400  
Banana 300/300  
Banana (Mukammal) 300/250  
Beans 180/140  
Broad beans 90/60  
Cabbage 70/50  
Carrot 130/100  
Cauliflower 120/100  
Cucumbers 140/100  
Dates 550/450  
Eggplant 100/70  
Garlic 220/180  
Lemon (per 100) 450/400  
Lettuce (large) 80/50  
Marrow (large) 140/100  
Marrow (small) 80/50  
Orange 360/300  
Onion (dry) 80/50  
Onion (green) 80/50  
Peas 180/140  
Pepper (hot) 140/100  
Pepper (sweet) 150/120  
Potato 240/180  
Tomatoes 120/100





**FARREH WALADAK** (make your child happy) calls from side street vendors draw attention of fathers and children for toys as everybody was on a shopping spree for the 'Eid Al Fitr' (Photo by Youssef Al Allani).

## Al Hussein meets Karak, Balqa delegations King: Jordan will surmount present difficulties, challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday Jordan had been able to make a lot of achievements despite its very limited financial resources because it owns what others lack in terms of resolve, determination and strong will which enabled it to overcome all challenges and dangers.

Addressing delegations from Karak and Balqa governorates at a meeting at the Royal Court Thursday, the King said: "We are passing through difficulty, but we are confident that we will be able to overcome it and to achieve our objectives in building the homeland."

"We all should organise ourselves and to adjust our life to live the reality and to achieve self-sufficiency through sharing the responsibilities, awareness and planning," he said.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's gratitude and appreciation to the Arab brothers who voiced their readiness to help and to provide support for Jordan and noted in particular those who honoured their commitments to the Kingdom. He paid special tribute to Saudi Arabia.

King Hussein said he was confident Jordan would surpass all

difficulties and challenges and called on the people to realise the delicacy of the circumstances and to assess the extent of the danger and challenge facing the Kingdom, given the fact its position in the heart of the Arab World.

The King noted that these challenges "are not targeted against us or against our land, but against the whole Arab Order and the whole Arab Nation."

King Hussein added that Jordan had been subjected to many tests and had encountered challenges but it has proved able to counter them and did counter them. "In countering such challenges," King Hussein said, "we do not deviate from the path we have charted for ourselves and do not change our convictions and do not succumb to dangers."

The King also said it was Jordan's destiny, honour and duty to stand by all Arab brothers and to counter any danger facing any part of the Arab World. "Jordan feels proud of its Arab belonging," the King said.

He pointed out that Jordan was part of the Arab World and that it was its duty to carry its pan-Arab message in the best manner, setting an example for others be-

cause "we believe in God and our citizen, and consequently own the components of survival which we consider as a means and not as end through which we perform our duties."

Referring to the events which took place recently in some parts of Jordan, King Hussein said: "What has taken place in our country is painful. To be frank with you, I must tell you that I have suffered a lot since I have been abroad trying to do my best to serve Jordan and Palestine and the Arabs."

"What has been more painful to me was the slight doubt that some of you might have that the country needed such incidents, which constitute self-destruction and distortion of image so that the news about the suffering of any Jordanian can reach Jordan's leadership."

King Hussein stressed the need for meaningful dialogue, responsible freedom and complete participation in shouldering responsibilities, saying that he would always listen to them and brief them on the realities of situation.

The King called on the people to work hand-in-hand to achieve Jordan's noble objectives.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday addresses representative of Balqa at the Royal Court



**DEFENCE, SECURITY:** Prime Minister, Minister of Defence Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday calls at the Armed Forces headquarters, of Staff, the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Armed Forces Inspector General and General Fathi Abu Taleb. Part of the meeting was attended by directors of Public Security and General Intelligence Departments, assistants to the Chief of Staff, the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Armed Forces Inspector General and senior Armed Forces officers.



**CREDENTIALS:** Deputy Prime Minister newly appointed Romanian Ambassador to Jordan and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (right) Dimitri Sansco (Petra/photo) Thursday receives a copy of the credentials of the



## Hawamdeh pensioned

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply Secretary General Abdulah Al Hawamdeh (above) was pensioned off as of May 4, according to a Cabinet decision.

## Bulgarian festival opens today at Alia Hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-general of Alia Hotel, Dr. Nazih Al Dabbas, has said that the Bulgarian festival will begin Friday, the first day of 'Eid Al Fitr', under the patronage of the Tourism and Antiquities Minister Yanal Hikmat.

Dr. Al Dabbas said that Alia Hotel has always been keen to present whatever is new and distinguished so as to meet the wishes of the citizens. The objectives of these activities, he added, is to get familiarised with the cultures of other peoples and to encourage people to spend their vacations in Jordan.

He continued that these festivals encourage regional and international tourism as they include enjoyable folkloric and modern dancing and acrobatic and gymnastic shows.

A number of officials, members of the diplomatic corps, pressmen, and travel and airline agents were invited to attend the opening event which will run through May 15.

## Bridge closure announced

AMMAN (Petra) — King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges on the River Jordan will be open for traffic and passengers wishing to cross the two bridges until 10 a.m. Tuesday May 9, while they will be completely closed on Wednesday May 10, according to Public

Security Department source. On Tuesday only 750 people will be allowed to cross the river through King Hussein bridge and 350 through Prince Mohammad's. However movement on both bridges will go back to normal as of Thursday May 11, the PSD source said.

## April — hot and dry

AMMAN (Petra) — The highest average temperatures were registered this April, when the average temperature throughout the month reached 20.3 centigrade, an average that has not been recorded in Jordan for 65 years. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda said Thursday.

Abanda added that maximum temperatures registered in April (27.5) were 5 centigrades higher than average maximum temperature, while the minimum temperatures (13.2 centigrade) were higher than the average by almost 4 centigrade.

Abanda added that the weather in April was hot and dry and



Dr. Ali Abanda there was hardly any rainfall, except for the showers which fell in the southeasterly parts of Jordan on April 19.

## Abu Hamdan leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian Vice President for Legal Affairs Jamal Abu Hamdan, who is also the rapporteur of the Arab Cooperation Council's civil aviation board, Thursday left for Cairo for talks with the board's chairman and Egypt Civil Aviation Authority Chairman Ali Zico on preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the board, which will be held in Baghdad later this month.

The board's technical and planning committees met last week in Amman, Baghdad, Cairo and Sanaa and drew up reports on progress of their work and made recommendations for discussions at the board's general assembly meeting in Baghdad.

The unified civil aviation council includes directors of civil aviation authorities in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen, in addition to heads of airlines and aviation and institutions in the four countries.

## Clash in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

broadcast on Israeli radio stations.

Parliament member Haim Oron of the Socialist Mapam Party was quoted by Israel Radio as criticising Shamir for calling on the public to take the law into their own hands.

A senior Iranian leader Friday urged Palestinians to kill Westerners, hijack aircraft, threaten U.S. interests worldwide and blow up factories in the West to regain their rights from Israel.

"Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said he did not mind if he was branded an advocate of terrorism."

"If in retaliation for every Palestinian martyred in Palestine they kill and execute, not inside Palestine, five Americans or Britons or Frenchmen, they (the Israelis) would not continue these wrongs," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

"Those who give \$10 billion a year to preserve Israel and know what they are doing, is their blood worth anything?" Rafsanjani asked in a Friday prayer sermon in Tehran.

IRNA said Rafsanjani, a front-runner in August presidential elections, also urged Palestinians to hijack planes to secure the release of prisoners held in Israel and to blow up factories in Western countries.

In the West Bank, 40 Israeli settlers marched from Alon Shvut settlement waving Israeli flags to a point near the village of Nahalin, demonstrating an "avowed right" to travel anywhere in the "Biblical land of Israel."

Israeli police killed five Palestinians in the village April 13 during a raid in which the army Thursday admitted security forces committed major blunders.

The army will prosecute a former commander of the Nabulus area in the West Bank whose troops bound Palestinians and broken their limbs, Israel Television reported Thursday.

By Mariam M. Shabin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the last six months or so heated discussions have taken place amongst all members of Jordanian society from government officials to the general public — on means to get the national economy back on track.

There have been many suggestions and recommendations on how to increase the flow of foreign currency into the Kingdom and curb "superfluous" spending on all levels, from the corridors of the ministries and government departments to our living rooms and kitchens.

Undoubtedly, things are indeed changing and many Jordanians have heeded the call for austerity measures to make the country and its people adjust to the new situation warranted by the decline in the Jordanian dinar's exchange value and further import restrictions adopted by the government.

Simultaneous with the belt-tightening measures, there have been calls to develop industries that already exist in Jordan as well as establish new ones. The curbs on imported goods in all sectors should certainly encourage local production, even if it will not do a lot for quality control.

According to Fawzi Abu

AMMAN (J.T.) — The honorary consulate of Bangladesh here has expressed its thanks to the JTV Authority on behalf of Bangladeshis in Jordan for the programme "The Profile of Muslim

World" which was telecast on May 2, 1989 covering the life, culture and tradition of Bangladeshis during holy month of Ramadan.

## Thanks

## Projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabbar approved a number of contracts for carrying out projects in five local councils at a cost of JD 120,412.

## One way to improve the economy

Nawar, former director of the Jordan Ports Corporation and current head of the Near East Maritime Agencies Co. Ltd., the full potential of "Jordan's geographical options" have been overlooked amid the national effort to set up new industries.

He points out that industries cannot be set up overnight and the process of studies, financing and acquisition of technology consume a lot of time while the impact of new industries on the national economy will be a slow moving process. Hence, says Abu Nawar, "while we are busy building industries let us not forget other, quicker options that we can utilise to increase the inflow of foreign currency because basically at this stage that's the name of our game."

According to Abu Nawar more extensive use of Jordan's maritime facilities as well as its two railways (in order to speed up transport to neighbouring Arab countries) is one way to increase the inflow of foreign currency.

"We will save time and money if our port and railways are utilised more effectively," Abu Nawar said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times.

"For example, it takes a vessel sailing from Belgium of England 10 to 15 days to dock at Aqaba and 30 days to dock at the Iraqi port of Basra. If Jordan can manage to get Iraqi-bound cargo through Aqaba and then by land to Baghdad in less than 30 days, then we are already increasing efficiency," he pointed out.

Aqaba Port collects JD 20 to JD 25 in hard currency on every tonne of goods unloaded there, he said.

### Overland transport

Overland transport from Aqaba to Baghdad was boosted at the height of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, which closed the Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraq's

only outlet to the Gulf. However, Iraq also used to get some of its imported goods through the Gulf ports of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In the wake of the Aug. 20 ceasefire that ended the Gulf war, the Iraqi use of the Gulf ports increased, leaving a major impact of the use of Aqaba, according to maritime experts.

Abu Nawar suggests that better use could be made in the overland Aqaba-Baghdad transport if Jordan would use its two railway networks and be more cost efficient in the field.

Jordan has two railway lines: The Hijaz Railway Corporation, established at the turn of the century, has lines running from Damascus to Maan, and the Aqaba Railways Corporation operates the phosphate hauling business between the mines in the south and Aqaba.

Activities of the Hijaz Railway Corporation are limited to tourist train rides and transporting goods from Syria to Jordan. The director general of the corporation, Dr. Abdullah Jazi, says it is cheaper for the importers to use the Damascus-Amman railway rather than trucking the goods.

"It is about 20 to 30 per cent cheaper, and the duration of transport is cut down considerably by the use of the railway," he said. Figures available for 1987 indicate that 20,000 tourists or school children used the railway, and the corporation handled about 10,000 tonnes of goods from Syria to Jordan. It is cheaper for cargo movers to use the railway in moving goods, rather than using lorries. The time it takes for the cargo to reach its destination in Syria by train is between 6 to 7 hours whereas by lorry it takes up to 24 hours.

"Not only that," says Abu Nawar, "we have 12,000 lorries, which cost anywhere from JD 40,000-50,000 each; there maintenance and upkeep is much more costly than trains will ever be."

At present, the corporation owns four steam engines of 1,050 horsepower each and five diesel engines of 950 horsepower each. It has about 250 wagons, including 50 with a payload capacity of 15 tonnes each, 99 with 30-tonne capacity and 81 with 10 tonne capacity each.

### Full capacity storage

According to Abu Nawar there are already extensive storage areas, such as Guweismeh, which are not being used to full capacity by any means.

There are countless money saving formulas, but they have to be applied. Economising on ways goods are shipped from the Far East to Jordan is one such way. Abu Nawar explains: "For a container to reach Kuwait from Hong Kong it costs the Kuwaitis the equivalent of \$600. For the same container to reach Aqaba it costs Jordan \$1,650. We have thousands of trucks coming back empty from Baghdad. Why don't we have our goods delivered to Basra, and have our trucks come back with these goods instead of coming back empty. We save on hard currency and we become more efficient by using our trucks. These concepts have to be applied without hesitation and immediately."

According to Abu Nawar, in 1988, 74 per cent of all the goods that arrived in Jordan were transit goods. Thus the most logical step for Jordan is to create a free port. Once you have that you will encourage transit cargo and thus the inflow of foreign currency.

The Port of Aqaba could be instrumental in helping Jordan out of its economic squeeze. If the transit cargo going to Arab countries would be transported by Arab transport companies, we save foreign currency, encourage local industries and save time. To save time is to save money.

## Boustany, Clayton: A concert to remember

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the British Council will jointly present a concert by flautist Wissam Boustany and pianist Nigel Clayton, at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday, May 15, at 8.00 p.m.

Wissam Boustany is a celebrated flute virtuoso who has received great acclaim in most music critiques ranging from Alan Blyth's "the extraordinary fluent and forthright young flautist, who, in terms of expressive power, defies the bounds imposed by his chosen instrument," to the Daily Telegraph's "a vibrant performer and brilliant technician... achieving a strong rapport with his audience through his intense will to communicate." This aspect of mesmerising his audience is elaborated on by the Yorkshire Post.

"One remarkable aspect of his performance is that he engages his own attention — and therefore that of the audience — from the first note of each piece and having done so, that concentration wavers not a jot until the final bar line."

And in the London Times, Wissam Boustany has "rare exuberance of musical personality, and a determination to transcend the instrument's expressive limitations."

Wissam Boustany has a good educational background as well as a rich record of performance. He started his musical studies in Beirut, his birthplace, and went on to the Quebec Conservatoire in Canada and completed his academic studies in Britain. From 1977 he studied at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and was a top prizewinner in the BBC's "Young Musicians of the Year" competition. He went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he received many awards and prizes. He graduated with distinction in 1982.

Mr. Boustany has given recital and concerto performances

throughout Europe, China, Mexico, Canada and the United States. He has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, with whom he filmed "Vivaldi," the Bourne-mouth Sinfonietta, the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with whom he toured extensively. He is the featured flautist in "Il Viaggio a Reims" which was recorded for (none less than) Deutsche Gramophone by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe conducted by Claudio Abbado.

His young partner (born 1960), Nigel Clayton, was trained at the Royal College of Music from the age of ten as a junior exhibitioner and later as an associated board scholar. He won many prizes for solo, duo and chamber music performances. He was awarded the top prize for his Bachelor of Music Degree from the Royal College of Music in 1982.

He has already performed in the most notable halls in Britain (the Royal Albert Hall, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, etc.).

His particular interest in chamber music has resulted in collaborations with some of the foremost instrumentalists. This has led him to perform and have his performances broadcast in the U.S. and throughout Europe, Ireland and Hungary.

Within the past two years he has toured India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan with the Indian Cello Anup Kumar Biswas, giving recitals and workshops in all the major cities and performing concertos with the Madras, Calcutta and Sri Lanka symphony orchestras. His work goes on with future plans for concerts in Portugal, Holland, Germany, Spain and the Channel Islands. He has been engaged as the official accompanist both for the Tihor Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland and for the "Escuela de Musica de Verano" in Valencia.

The concert that these two spirited performers will present, includes "Sonata for Flute and Piano" composed by Gaetano

Donizetti (1796-1848), better known for his operas, oratorios and cantatas. Donizetti's music has a rough, impulsive character which is well adapted to the representation of crude, melodramatic situations.

Next on the programme is Berkeley's Sonata for flute and piano followed by the Grande Polonaise for flute and piano of the brilliant German Baroque master Georg Boehm (1663-1703).

After the intermission Wissam Boustany will perform "Quatre Jeux" for solo flute. This was written for him by his fellow countryman, Georges Gelman.

And what better finale than the introduction to a "Lied" by Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828). Schubert's songs reveal his supreme gift for making beautiful melodies, a power which few even of the greatest composers have possessed so fully. Bearing in mind that he was part of the Romantic movement one expects to find spontaneous and perfect expression of Romantic feeling in his melody. Along with melody goes a sensitive feeling for harmonic colour. His modulations are often far-flung and complex. This has to contribute to the mood of the song since the piano figuration in the lieder often illustrates a pictorial image from a text such as Wilhelm Mueller's "Die Schone Muellerin" (1823) or from Goethe or Heinrich Heine. This last piece to be played will be introduction and variations for flute and piano on a theme from the "Muellerlieder". Die Trockne Blumen.

Such a varied choice promises good entertainment, and the claim in the Daily Telegraph that "he possesses the most powerful will to communicate allied to a brilliant technique, generating a palpable electricity," promises to make this memorable experience. Wissam Boustany will, also, be leading a master class at the National Music Conservatory (behind Kuwaiti embassy, 4th c.m.) on May 15, at 4:00 p.m. for flute musicians and students.

Another concert for young music lovers will be held at the Conservatory on May 15, at 11:00 a.m. Bring your children!

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tunisiyyeh at the Housing Gallery.
- \* An art exhibition displaying 120 paintings depicting the history of the German city of Berlin and different aspects of life in East Germany, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.



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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Very important channel

**DIRECT** contacts and dialogue between His Majesty King Hussein and his people is a blessing that the whole country hopes will be further developed and nurtured in order to assume an institutionalised form. The Hashemite Court has had a well established tradition to open its gates to various sectors of the Jordanian society to hear out directly about their pains and joys. The ongoing meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and representatives of various regions of the country is in fact part and parcel of that tradition and custom that the country is in urgent need for in these difficult times. Some of the reasons offered to explain the recent riots in some parts of the country have been attributed to lost channels of communication between the government and the governed. The accentuation of direct dialogue between King Hussein and his people would most certainly reactivate and fortify an old tradition that should never be allowed to wane. This Hashemite tradition is all the more urgently needed in the absence of parliamentary life in the country. But even when the country does enjoy an operational parliamentary life, there can never be a substitute for periodic direct contacts between the Hashemite Court and the people of Jordan. There will always be fear that any future parliamentarians would serve more their slogans or their demagogues of whatever colour or kind rather than the mundane issues that affect the Jordanian rank and file. To be sure, whether the projected elections in the country would turn out to be a big success story or a big fiasco would depend in the final analysis on the extent the genuine aspirations and views of Jordanians are truly reflected in the new national assembly. Due to our limited experiences in parliamentary life, there is no escape from the fear that our future representatives in the Lower House of Parliament would not reflect sufficiently enough the thoughts and ideas of the people. This state of affairs would make it all the more pressing to maintain direct channels of communications between His Majesty King Hussein and his people open on a reasonable interval basis. King Hussein has openly called for constructive and calm dialogue when he met Jordanians in the course of the last few days. This Royal wave calling for dialogue is destined to continue in order to reach sectors of the Jordanian society that have yet to be contacted. It is the ardent hope of all Jordanians that communication between His Majesty King Hussein and his people will never cease.



## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's meeting at the Royal Court Thursday with representatives of the Balqa and Karak regions was tackled Friday by the Jordanian Arabic dailies. Al Ra'i for its part described the meeting and the King's address to the notables as an expression of cohesion between leader and people. The King's reference to the present crisis and the need for closer cooperation on the part of all sectors served as a message to the whole Jordanian family, the paper noted. What is of importance at this stage, the paper added, is the King's emphasis on the need to promote the dialogue and maintain open channels between the government and people on all matters so that cooperation can attain success.

Al Doustour daily said that the King has put before the notables all the facts that are related to the present circumstances and has reaffirmed his deep faith in his people and the Jordanian family's capability to overcome the present difficult circumstances. The paper referred to the numerous achievements in Jordan under King Hussein and said they were realised through the diligence and perseverance of the people under the wise guidance of King Hussein. It said that more can be achieved despite the present difficulties and the meagre resources provided that the Jordanians worked closely and with dedication to serve the common goal. The paper echoed the King's advice to the people to re-organise their social and economic institutions and strive to achieve self-sufficiency with more self-reliance. The King's words, the paper noted, brought back hope to the Jordanian family and strengthened the optimism in the future.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the economic crisis facing Jordan now is part of the difficult economic situation that prevails in the Arab region and this calls for more awareness and more national responsibility and perseverance. The paper said that this was the King's message to the Jordanian family which can through hard and diligent work attain further development and progress. The paper refers to the past achievements in the Kingdom accomplished under the wise guidance of King Hussein and said that despite the meagre resources and the hard circumstances we are confronting now, the Kingdom can maintain the momentum of development.

## Poverty and ethnic strains at root of Senegal, Mauritania riots

By Jean-Loup Fievet  
Reuter

DAKAR — Acute poverty and ethnic tension between Arabic-speaking Moors and black Africans are at the root of riots which have killed several hundred people in Senegal and Mauritania and embittered relations between the two West African neighbours. Local people and foreign diplomats agree the damage inflicted in a week of strife will take time to mend, but say neither Senegal nor Mauritania can afford to break relations because of their strong commercial ties.

"A week of violence cannot wipe out centuries of relatively peaceful cohabitation imposed upon us by geography and common interests. After all, almost all of us here have relatives or some kind of family links in Mauritania," said one Senegalese.

The unprecedented wave of looting, beatings and killings in two nations already struggling for

economic survival was only contained after army intervention.

It prompted an exodus of thousands among populations who through the generations had in practice come to ignore the border drawn by France, the former colonial master.

And it shattered Senegal's reputation as a haven of political stability and racial coexistence.

Before the unrest, up to 300,000 Mauritians, mostly hard-working traders, were in Senegal while an estimated 30,000 Senegalese lived north of the 700-kilometre border formed by the river Senegal.

Moors of Arab and Berber descent, who make up two thirds of Mauritania's two million people, are mainly light-skinned. The rest are blacks of Negro-African stock, working as skilled labourers in towns and as farmers along the Senegal river.

Before independence in 1960, the lighter-skinned Arabic-speakers of the north used to dominate the black population of modern Senegal. Slavery was officially

banned in Mauritania only a decade ago by the military government, where beydanes or "white" Moors still hold a dominant position.

The flare-up was sparked on April 9 by a minor border incident over grazing rights. Two Senegalese were shot dead, igniting tensions in the border region and unleashing a cycle of racial violence in the capitals Dakar and Nouakchott.

Border incidents have not been uncommon in the past but this was the first time in nearly 20 years that blood was known to have been shed.

Senegalese cultivate land on both banks of the Senegal river traditionally neglected by nomadic-minded Moors but in recent years many Mauritians, pushed by persistent drought, have tried to recover these fields.

Mauritania and Senegal are partners in a regional grouping aimed at developing agriculture along the river. The ambitious scheme, which provides for the building of dams and water reservoirs, has

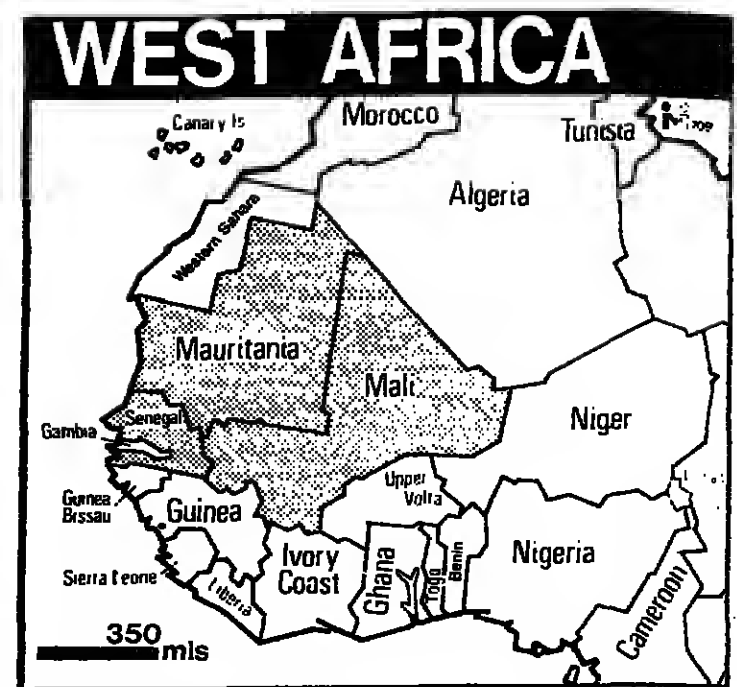
exacerbated the scramble for farm land.

In Senegal, widespread looting in towns and villages was spearheaded by gangs of unemployed youths who ransacked Mauritanian-owned shops. Many Senegalese finding it hard to make ends meet joined in.

"The border incident was only a pretext. Unemployment, inflation and insecurity on towns are a breeding ground for such acts of hooliganism," Senigne Diop, a law professor at Dakar University told a meeting of intellectuals. The former French colony, which has few resources other than groundnuts and phosphates, has been implementing tough austerity measures in the past decade as a condition for financial help from international donors.

Both governments have carefully avoided issuing inflammatory statements since the start of the conflict. Senegal President Abdou Diouf, while blaming Mauritania for the April 9 border incident and the killings in Nouakchott, appealed for an end

to revenge killings. "Mauritania and Senegal are two sister nations with the same destiny and interests and are consequently condemned to live together," he said.



## Will Gorbachev shakeup inspire U.S. to bargain?

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's latest step to consolidate power could make Washington more confident of striking deals with him but is unlikely to prompt any dramatic changes in U.S. policy.

In a deft move disclosed to the U.S. administration in advance, Gorbachev last week engineered the pensioning off of 110 leading members of the Communist Party's central committee who were viewed as opponents of his radical reforms.

Some analysts say Gorbachev's enhanced political strength should make the United States more confident about making deals, including arms control agreements.

But key U.S. officials have long been divided over Gorbachev's survival prospects and that has not changed. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in a television interview last Saturday he believed Gorbachev would fail in his reform effort and may be replaced by a leader more hostile to the West.

Though the White House quickly distanced itself from Cheney's remarks, it was clear that a difference of opinion exists in Washington on how successful Gorbachev can be.

The New York Times suggested in an editorial the Kremlin shakeup should give President George Bush further reason to search with confidence for bolder East-West initiatives.

A State Department official said he did not expect any change in U.S. policy prompted by Gorbachev's latest political stroke.

"We have tried to keep our policy from being held hostage to day-to-day analysis," he said. "We determine our policy on the basis of our national interest."

There are things Washington would like to see emerge from the Soviet shakeup, however, including a codification in law of human rights improvements which was long ago promised but "has taken longer than it might have," the official said.

American experts on Soviet affairs say additional future purges are virtually certain. "I'm surprised he didn't go further," said Marshall Goldman of Harvard University's Russian

Research Centre.

He expects Gorbachev now to have the confidence to act against some of the conservatives in the politburo, such as Ukrainian party chief Vladimir Shcherbitsky and Yegor Ligachev, who was stripped of his post as ideology chief last October.

Some analysts also predict party purges next month after elections for the Supreme Soviet and for local posts.

"I think you can see this pattern again and again," the State Department official said. "Perestroika has largely been a process of cadre renewal."

The experts agree the purge was a strong political victory for Gorbachev. But he is still left with serious problems, including popular discontent over the government's failure to improve the economy and nationalist unrest.

None of the experts considers Gorbachev to be invulnerable. "No Soviet leader can be that," said Andrew Goldberg, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

He cited the example of former leader Nikita Khrushchev, "who was ousted not by conservatives but by those he raised into power."

## Noriega not a candidate, but he campaigns hard

By Eloy O. Aguilar  
The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega is an issue not a candidate in Sunday's presidential election in Panama, but he is campaigning as hard as any candidate.

Noriega, whose command of the Panamanian defence forces gives him de facto control of the Central American nation, is supporting a business associate, Carlos Duque, against an opposition coalition headed by Guillermo Endara.

"He cannot stay impartial in this campaign," Maj. Edgardo Lopez, a defence forces spokesman, said of Noriega. "Impartiality at this time would be irresponsibility on his part."

But Noriega has made few appearances with his candidate. Instead, he goes on what his patron, the late Gen. Omar Torrijos, once called "domestic patrols." He visits hamlets, labour unions and civic groups to polish his image and that of the defence forces.

The campaign was enlivened recently with reports that the United States has provided \$10 million to opposition campaigns and U.S. claims that Noriega's allies are planning to steal the election.

The short, wily general has survived everything the United States has thrown at him so far, from economic sanctions to a coup attempt last year. He has retained his grip through government political parties and the defence forces, whose members are the only visible authority in most rural towns.

He also has tried to build an image as a Panamanian nationalist persecuted by the U.S. government, an effort helped by the flap over the \$10 million. The United States has not commented on the reported campaign contribution.

Noriega also carried an image as a supporter of the poor against the rich and middle class, many of whom are in the opposition.

In his visits to small towns, Noriega mingles with residents and listens to their complaints and requests for assistance in community projects. Many of

those projects then are carried out by the local defence forces unit.

In his speeches Noriega has said the 500 municipal council members to be elected Sunday must be turned into a "people's power" assembly, a system that Torrijos once installed in Panama in lieu of a congress.

Noriega went from a close friend and associate of intelligence agencies in the United States to a wanted man following his indictment on drug trafficking charges by two grand juries in Florida last year.

He denies the charges, saying they stem from his refusal to cooperate with U.S. government plans to train Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, in Panama for an invasion of Nicaragua.

"(Then-White House adviser Adm. John) Poindexter came to try to convince the general in 1985," Lopez, a close associate of the general said, in an interview. "When he left, he refused to shake Noriega's hand and told him 'be prepared to face the

consequences.'"

Lopez claimed that shortly after that time the U.S. campaign against Noriega started.

In February 1988 Noriega was indicted on drug charges and the U.S. government demanded his ouster. But when President Eric Delvalle, who had been hand-picked by Noriega, tried to fire the general, he was deposed.

Delvalle, now living in Miami, still has U.S. recognition as the legitimate ruler of Panama. After Delvalle's ouster, the U.S. government imposed economic sanctions against Panama and the opposition has echoed U.S. demands that the general must leave.

Noriega personally answered radio charges by opposition vice presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon, the only time he got directly involved in the campaign.

Arias had called Noriega a "nail in the side" that had to be removed. Noriega said he would drive the nail deeper. It has become a government slogan.

## LETTERS

### Obscene

To the Editor:

DURING my recent visit to the United Kingdom I read "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie.

I have found it the most repugnant book in print, for besides its blasphemous contents, it is extremely obscene — I have found five obscene words in less than three lines and I am sure that no Arabic printing press would ever print such words, lest it be sued for pornography and obscenity.

George Khoury  
P.O. Box: 17008  
Amman.

### Unity of family

To the Editor:

In a time of instability around the world, it is wonderful to see

progress made in the "unity of the human family" — a value which is highlighted this year by the Pontifical Council of Inter-religious Dialogue.

In his message on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, the council's president Francis Card Arizez emphasised "the brotherhood uniting those who believe in the one living and true God" and the efforts to understand one another better.

It is this message that encourages me, in the prevailing atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, to raise the issue of allowing for Easter holidays in non-missionary schools in Jordan. The Ministry of Education could look further into the possibility of giving a holiday for those schools which, out of respect for the principle of tolerance, request that such a holiday be introduced to their schools.

Reem Habayeb  
Amman

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"If India is to attain true freedom... then sooner or later the fact must be realised that people will have to live in villages not towns, in huts not palaces."

## Development: villages not towns, huts not palaces

By Kamla Chowdhury

INDIA's poverty is closely linked with its increasing land degradation. Out of the total 329 million hectares of land mass, it is now thought that as much as 53 per cent is degraded in one form or another.

Even more alarming is the rate at which this degradation is taking place: 1.5 million hectares of forest cover disappear every year. Another 1.0 million hectares are estimated as becoming non-productive as a result of improper use.

India's land mass is under relentless pressure; yet the country has no grazing policy, no fodder development policy, and no poli-

cy relating to livestock numbers in relation to the capacity of available grazing land.

Indian forest policy states that one third (about 100 million hectares) of the land area should be under tree cover. Today, of the 75 million hectares under the forest department, only 47 per cent are adequately covered.

Deforestation on this scale has not only resulted in severe fuel shortages, but has also destroyed the culture and livelihood of many tribal communities. The social forestry programme, initially set up to alleviate the fuel and fodder shortages, has in fact provided raw material to the paper, pulp and building industry, ignoring the very people it was designed to help.

The poor are trapped in a vicious downward spiral: poverty leads to an impoverishment of the resources, and impoverished resources in turn lead to increasing poverty.

Since independence, every 5-Year Plan has focused on the elimination of this evil as a major priority. Yet 40 years down the road, roughly half of the population still lives without basic necessities.

### Nehru's dream

Jawaharlal Nehru dreamt of a modern and industrialised India; a country with steel and fertiliser plants, dams and hydro-electric power, modern agriculture and

science. He believed that a policy of accelerated industrialisation would propel the country into material wealth, in much the same way as had been done in Europe and North America.

There is little doubt that the India of today has achieved much in the fields of science and technology. But the contribution of this infrastructure to the well-being of people, particularly the rural poor, is in considerable doubt.

Nehru's original vision of what industrialisation would achieve has failed; what is worse, the policy appears to have increased poverty. The intensive pursuit of large-scale industry has resulted in massive environmental de-

gradation. Such a model of development has already proved non-sustainable.

The basic questions raised must be: What does development actually mean? And what price are we willing to pay for it?

Is the tribal person of Nagaland or Mizoram less well-off than the slum dweller of Calcutta? Is the woman who used to spend only half an hour collecting fuel wood and fodder, and who now spends 6 to 8 hours searching for it, better off?

### Economic theory

Economic theory would certainly say so. India's GNP, that ultimate thermometer of econo-

mic wealth, is now far higher than it was 20 years ago.

Perhaps the basic assumptions of Western economies are not relevant to other, older cultures precisely because their application does not yield results in a uniform manner.

Surely the limits to economic growth should depend on the limits of natural resources to renew themselves — something which obviously varies from region to region, from culture to culture. What is feasible in the Northern hemisphere may not be feasible in the South.

Many years before the environmental debate became fashionable, Gandhiji had asked why India must become industrial in

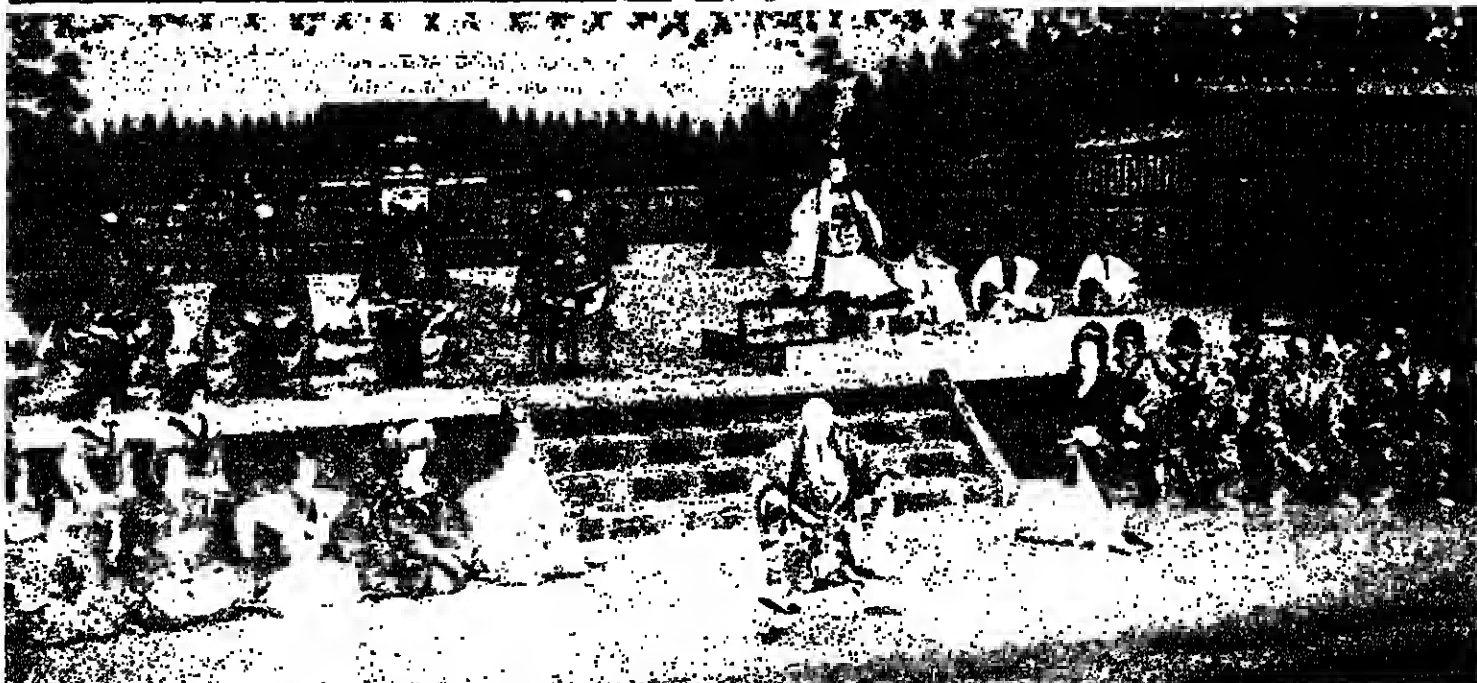
the Western sense. The India of his dreams was a federation of small village republics providing the essential needs of the community without large-scale industrialisation. This ideology ensured sustainable development without over-exploitation of the natural resources.

"I am convinced," he said, "that if India is to attain true freedom... then sooner or later the fact must be realised that people will have to live in villages not towns, in huts not palaces."

Gandhiji had a coherence in his vision because he understood the inherent relatedness of things in nature. Tribal people have always understood this; modern thinkers and ecologists are beginning to do

so. This need for a new ethic, or perhaps an age-old ethic, is what Gandhiji emphasised. He was laughed out of court by the so-called modern thinkers of the day. We may now come full circle in our thinking to an understanding of the fact that development must come in harmony with nature, not at the expense of it. Industrialisation along Western lines has not worked for India; sooner or later, we will be forced to accept that, and find our own solutions.

If poverty is to be seriously tackled, then the issue of environmental degradation will have to receive the highest attention. Panos.



A scene from a Kabuki play

## Kabuki star a hit in Dostoyevsky drama

By Nao Nakanishi  
Reuters

TOKYO — Thousands are flocking to a tiny Tokyo theatre to see a star actor portray both a man and a woman in a play directed by leading Polish film-maker Andrzej Wajda.

Tamasaburo Bando, the famous "Onnagata" — a male actor who plays women in the traditional all-male Kabuki theatre — portrays a mysterious beauty and her aristocrat lover in "Nastasya", based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel "The Idiot". Wajda, creator of films such as "Ashes and diamonds" and "Danton", came up with the idea nine years ago when he saw the actor performing in the western Japanese city of Kyoto.

He was astounded to discover the beautiful heroine was actually a man. "I know of no other actor in the world who could have given me the chance to create male and female roles on stage without any change of make-up or costume," said Wajda at the play's recent opening at the Benisan Pit Theatre.

"He is more a real woman on stage than a real woman can be. He creates a woman, he does not imitate." Tamasaburo switches back and forth with ease between the roles of the tragic heroine Nastasya and Prince Myshkin, her epileptic lover, without leaving the stage or changing costume.

The only other actor in the piece, Baocho Tsuji, plays the role of Nastasya's second lover.

Ragozhin.

"It is easier to play a character that is much different from myself, such as a woman," said 38-year-old Tamasaburo surrounded by orchids in his dressing room. "I can be more daring in expression."

"But I have now developed enough confidence to play male characters. I am playing more and more male roles, although this is the first time I have played both woman and a man without any costume change," added the slim hachelor.

Kabuki has its roots in a wandering 16th century theatrical troupe and combines drama, music and mime to extravagant and colourful productions.

The all-male cast was the indirect result of a ban on prostitution by the ruling shoguns in the 18th and 19th centuries — actresses then being regarded on a par with prostitutes.

Tamasaburo is a parity in the Japanese world of arts — rooted in the classic tradition but eager for challenges in other disciplines.

He surprised his fans last year by dancing during a concert with American cellist Yo Yo Ma, and even shocked some when he danced with French choreographer Maurice Bejart and his ballet troupe, also in 1988.

"The long (Kabuki) training has built a core in my art, which now allows me to work with other types of artists," he said. "Without the training, I would not have been able to develop my style."

Tamasaburo, whose real name is Shinichi Morita, was born in

1950, the seventh son of a restaurant owner in central Tokyo. His mother, who had tried every charm and potion to give birth to a daughter, was disappointed to see yet another boy.

A frail child, his interests always differed from those of his brothers. His mother took him along to her dance class when he was four and here Tamasaburo discovered his real passion.

He joined the world of Kabuki two years later, and became a professional actor at the age of 14.

Unlike in previous centuries, Onnagata no longer live as transvestites in their private lives. But little of the intensity and severity of the training required of Kabuki actors has changed.

"It was very hard. Every day we started early in the morning and did not finish until 10 at night," Tamasaburo said of his apprenticeship.

"Once I thought of quitting. Although, looking back, it was just the usual doubt everybody undergoes during adolescence. I basically cannot live without it," he said.

He directed his first play — a successful Japanese language production of "Romeo and Juliet" — in Tokyo last year.

Asked about his future plans, he said: "I would like to direct more dramas. And for the next 10 years I'd like to work with different artists from foreign countries."

"I was very glad to be given the rare opportunity to work with Mr. Wajda from Poland."

Tamasaburo was reluctant to talk about his private life, but said: "I like to play the roles of complex women, although I think they would be difficult to live with."

"In real life, I prefer sweet and affectionate women."

## Fusion seen as last, greatest energy source

By Paul Recer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The year is 2089 and fusion power plants are energising the world, bringing the benefits of virtually unlimited electricity to countries everywhere.

Earth's sky has slowly returned to its normal crystalline blue, purged of the pollutants that soured the atmosphere a century before, when fossil fuels were civilisation's main energy source. Life is returning to lakes and streams that previously were acid-filled. Concerns about acid rain and the global warming trend called the "greenhouse effect" are now only academic curiosities.

Such is the world that scientists and engineers envision with the advent of fusion, the process by which atoms are fused together to release energy.

Some experts say those visions are not just wishful thinking, but goals that must be achieved because the age of fossil fuels is expected to start drawing to a close within a few decades. And when fossil fuels are gone or become impractically expensive, something must be ready to take their place.

"The most likely thing will be fusion," said Harold P. Furth, director of the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory.

"The present projections are that by the year 2040 or 2050, there will be a divergence between the energy required for a growing population and the energy available from fossil fuels, easily obtainable uranium and other sources."

"There will be quite a calamity unless something new is ready," he added.

The "cold fusion" process announced last month by the University of Utah is still controversial and unproven. But Furth and others believe a fusion

process based on compressing deuterium plasma and heating it to 100 million degrees Fahrenheit (56 million centigrade) can be developed within two decades or less.

Thousands of researchers working at both federal and university laboratories are moving closer to the point where the fusion fires will ignite and burn, powered by deuterium or hydrogen, chemicals easily extracted from seawater.

Most experts believe the fusion future lies with the high-pressure "hot" process, which has not been achieved yet, but they would welcome convincing proof that Utah's cold, room-temperature fusion works because it possibly could be developed more quickly.

Eric Storm, a fusion research project leader at the Lawrence Livermore laboratory in California, said researchers could have a fusion-fired power plant operating by the year 2020 if industrialised nations would commit the resources.

"Fusion is the energy source that nature prefers. It's the one that drives the sun and the stars."

Storm said. "And nature is efficient."

"We could have fusion in just 15 years or so," said Stephen Dean, president of the fusion power association, a non-profit education foundation, "but the government hasn't put a high priority on it, so it will take 30 years or more."

Dean said a U.S. government investment of \$1 billion a year for 15 years would bring fusion power to reality, but he said that isn't likely to happen "until there's an economic incentive."

Most experts believe there will be a slow phase-out of fossil fuels as they become more expensive, and that the 21st century eventually will evolve into an all-fusion civilisation.

Manmade facilities on earth will produce some of that fusion. But experts also believe there will be a more efficient use of solar radiation, the energy created by the sun's natural fusion process.

Once that time comes, according to scientists' visions, oil spills will be obscure footnotes in history texts or just quaint memories recalled by centenarians who lounge in the bright sunlight of a

pollution-free sky. Petroleum, expensive and becoming rare, will seldom be used for fuel, and coal even less often.

A fusion-driven world could have automobiles and trucks running on nearly silent electric engines, leaving in their wake only eddies of clean air.

Some engines could operate on hydrogen, a fuel extracted from seawater by the use of the plentiful electric power. In this scenario, fusion power plants would dot the landscape worldwide.

The plants would not pose the radiation hazard that seems so threatening from today's nuclear fission plants. There would be no Chernobyl-like monster straining to break free with fusion.

Radiation waste from fusion would be only a fraction of that from fission plants. Fusion wastes are rendered harmless within decades, while spent fuel rods from today's nuclear fission plants will still be deadly for more than 1,000 years.

"Whatever process is developed, fusion is inevitable," Storm said. "It's not a question of if, but of when."



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## Official reconciliation policy sows student discord

# Peking strike breaks up

PEKING (R) — Some Chinese students drifted back to class Friday while others continued a two-week-old strike, as the democracy movement showed signs of a split in the face of an official policy of conciliation.

One day after a mass pro-democracy demonstration in Peking, activists on several of the capital's campuses said most of the 80,000 or so striking students would return to class by next week.

Students said the decision left many protesters disappointed and disillusioned.

"How can we end the strike when we did not get anything from the government? We are just giving up," said a student at Peking University, which remained on strike Friday.

Officials of the illegal student union which announced the end of the action defended the decision.

"Returning to class is just one of our tactics," said Wang Zhihui, 21, secretary-general of the union which coordinated the mass demonstration Thursday, paralyzing

Peking for the second time in eight days.

"We can go back to school, we can strike again. We want to show we have flexible methods."

Thousands of students also marched for democratic reforms in at least 10 other cities.

Wang said they decided to end the strike after successfully marshalling tens of thousands of banner-carrying students through the centre Peking and seeing several conciliatory moves by the authorities.

"The government has taken a step back. Ending the strike can open up the road to more dialogue," he said.

Major newspapers covered Thursday's demonstration more fully than any other event during three weeks of unrest, partially answering a key demand by the

protesters for open and accurate reports in the official media.

In response to the students' demand for dialogue, government leaders have met with selected student groups to discuss their demands for freedom and democracy.

Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang gave the mildest response to the student movement from any government leader in a speech prominently reported in all newspapers Friday.

Wang said several prominent radical members of the student committee resigned Thursday night in a disagreement with moderate members over tactics.

Two who resigned had spearheaded the drive to give the government the ultimatum — talks with the independent union or another protest — that led to Thursday's demonstration.

"There were problems with their analysis. Some of the things they supported were not accepted by the others," Wang said.

Wu Kaixi, a student at Teachers University, stepped

down as chairman after just over a week, students said. His replacement was not named in public.

Student leaders at Peking University, the nation's most prestigious, were fiercely divided over whether to go back to class Saturday, students said.

"Who announced the resumption of classes? Can you listen to the voice of your conscience?" asked a poster on the campus. Another, signed "A student weeping for democracy," spoke of "the mistake of returning to classes."

Wang said he understood that many students felt upset at returning to class without a clear victory.

"There are many things we haven't gotten yet and many things we just cannot get from the government," he said.

He added the union planned to gain legitimacy through mass elections and apply to the government for legal recognition. He declined to say when the elections would be held.

## Slow pace seen as Colombo talks begin

COLOMBO (AP) — Peace talks between the government and Tamil rebels will be "a slow-moving process," Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratna predicted Friday as the two sides started their second session.

He said President Ramasinghe Premadasa has instructed his seven-man negotiating team to examine in detail all grievances put forth by the Tamil militants.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whose six-year separatist war has claimed more than 9,000 lives, dispatched five negotiators on a courtesy visit to Premadasa Thursday night after the first round of talks. It was the first time senior Tiger leaders were known to have met a Sri Lankan president since the insurrection by their ethnic minority started in 1983.

"The discussions will cover all Tamil grievances and will be a slow-moving process," Wijeratna

said Friday just before the talks resumed at 10 a.m. (0430 GMT).

Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, say the Sinhalese majority discriminates against them in language, jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language.

The talks between the Tigers and the government are taking place at a luxury hotel in the centre of Colombo, according to sources who spoke on condition the hotel was not identified.

No additional security was visible outside the hotel, but witnesses said Friday one elevator has been set aside for the negotiators' use and stops only on the 14th floor where they meet.

The greatest security threat presumably would come from radicals within the Sinhalese ethnic majority. The People's Liberation Front, an ultranationalist Sinhalese group with Marxist origins, has embarked on its own

campaign on assassinations and bombings against the Sinhalese-dominated government.

The front, which says the government is making too many concessions to Tamil, has killed more than 3,500 people in the last two years, according to government reports. Most of the victims were Sinhalese politicians, bureaucrats and supporters of government policies.

Railroad officials blamed the front for the derailment of a government-operated freight train in southern Sri Lanka Friday morning.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said no one was injured but seven cars ran off the tracks where some railway ties had been removed.

The derailment happened in Weligama as the train headed to Matara, 120 kilometres south of Colombo. Premadasa is expected in Matara later Friday on a visit

that was scheduled before the derailment.

Most of the 9,000 victims in the Tamil separatist war were Sinhalese civilians who were shot or hacked to death in village massacres or killed in bombing attacks on buses and trains.

Rival Tamil militant groups also have been attacked, along with members of the small Muslim minority. At least 860 Indian soldiers died trying to disarm the Tigers and enforce a 1987 Indian-brokered peace plan.

India, the region's biggest military and political power, got involved in the matter because of the political clout of its own 60-million-member Tamil minority.

Sri Lankan Tamils, like most Indians, are Hindus. The Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's people, are mostly Buddhists.

## IRA warns Thatcher with bloody attacks on anniversary

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) marking Margaret Thatcher's 10th anniversary in power with two killings, warned the British prime minister there was no military solution to the Irish question.

In a carefully orchestrated upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland, IRA guerrillas killed a British soldier and a prison officer Thursday in two separate car bomb attacks in the border area known as "bandit country."

The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in a 20-year guerrilla campaign that has cost almost 3,000 lives, then issued a statement to the media in Dublin and Belfast to show the

killings had been carefully timed.

"We remind the British people on the 10th anniversary of Thatcher's government that the Irish question remains unresolved and cannot be resolved by military policies," it said.

The IRA pledged to continue its campaign of bombings and shootings if Thatcher continued to press for military goals.

In 1984, the guerrilla group narrowly failed to assassinate Thatcher, killing five people in the British seaside hotel where she was staying for her conservative party's annual conference.

After that near miss, the IRA said "Today we were unlucky, but remember we only have to be

lucky once. You will have to be lucky always."

The latest IRA killings and its follow-up statement were condemned in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Moderate nationalist Seamus Mallon, from Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, said the deaths were "the result of the IRA's bloodlust and desire to inflict their will on the people of south Armagh where they have carried out a campaign of fear and brutal death almost unparalleled."

Dublin's Irish Times Friday accused the IRA of hypocrisy for telling Thatcher there could be no military solution for this divided



Margaret Thatcher

island.

"Coming from a paramilitary organisation in a statement admitting responsibility for cold-blooded murder, it adds insult to obscenity," the paper said.

## The pill increases cancer risk — survey

LONDON (R) — Young women who take contraceptive pills for four years or more run an increased risk of developing breast cancer, according to a study published in the Lancet Medical Journal Friday.

The five-year study, the largest of its kind, focused on British women under the age of 36. It said four to eight years on popular brands of the pill increased the risk of breast cancer by 41 per cent, while more than eight years increased the risk by about 70 per cent.

"We don't know whether this risk lasts beyond the age of 36,"

Dr. Klim McPherson of Oxford University, one of the study's authors, told a news conference.

The report said: "The most consistent interpretation of our results is that the excess risk is transient and diminishes or disappears at older ages."

"The possibility remains, however, that prolonged oral contraceptive use beginning at an early age produces a persistent and substantial increase in risk."

"Women should aim for the lowest-dose pill for the shortest possible time," Clair Chivers of

the Cancer Research Campaign, co-funders of the survey, advised at the news conference.

"Women who are not having intercourse should stop taking it," she said.

The researchers stressed that the risks had to be kept in perspective.

"Breast cancer is uncommon below age 36, the age group that was studied. Only one woman in 500 develops the disease before age 36, so even a 70 per cent increase in risk would only put the chances of developing breast cancer by this age up to about one in 300," the researchers said.

Earlier studies on the relationship between the pill and breast cancer have reached conflicting results. Last January, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration committee of experts declared that recent research on possible links between the pill and breast cancer was inconclusive.

The research also found a progestogen-only pill, known as the mini-pill, may actually protect against cancer but the report said further study was needed.

The survey was made on 1,049 British patients and the same number of controls.



An injured woman and her child are the only Bangladesh village devastated by last week's torrid survivors of a seven-member family in Shaturia, a mado.

## Diarrhoea claims 1,000 Bangladeshis

DHAKA (R) — A fast-spreading diarrhoea epidemic has killed at least 1,000 people and infected 20,000 in Bangladesh since February, according to health officials.

They said Thursday hospitals in the worst-affected coastal areas were overflowing, with hundreds of patients arriving everyday.

Some patients registered as diarrhoea cases actually had cholera, a disease officially non-

existent in Bangladesh, a doctor in Barisal district said.

The doctor, who asked not to be identified, said shortage of injectable saline and other medicine had caused serious problems.

Diarrhoea and other ailments caused by contaminated water and rotten food killed more than 700 people last year during Bangladesh's worst monsoon floods.

## 3 held in killing of Kanak leaders; Rocard cancels polls

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (AP) — Three men were being held for questioning in the slaying of the two senior leaders of the independence movement in this French Pacific territory, prosecutors said Friday.

Premier Michel Rocard was to fly to New Caledonia Friday to attend the funeral Sunday of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, president of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), and his top assistant, Yeiwene Yeiwene.

The two men were shot to death Thursday by Djibelly Wea, an opponent of Tjibaou's moderate policies of the past nine months, authorities said.

Wea, in turn, was killed by Tjibaou's bodyguards immediately after the attack, which occurred on the outlying island of Ouvéa.

The three in custody for questioning were identified by the prosecutor's office as Paoula Wea, a nephew of Djibelly Wea; Andre Tangopi; and Fessen Tuet. Authorities provided no details on their alleged involvement in the attack.

Tangopi was wounded in the exchange of gunfire and was under police guard in the hospital at Noumea, the provincial capital, after being transported from Ouvéa.

The senior surviving leader of the FLNKS, Leopold Jorede, said Friday the organisation would stick to its commitment to participate peacefully in a process started last year that is to culminate in a 1998 referendum on independence.

The word of Jean-Marie Tjibaou will be respected and



Jean-Marie Tjibaou

we pledge to make sure that the process is followed to its conclusion," Jorede said in an interview on French Television.

Jorede, who was a witness to the killings, said he thought at least five or six gunmen were involved.

The FLNKS announced Friday it was calling off ceremonies planned on Ouvéa to mark the first anniversary of the May 5 assault by French military gendarmes on a cave where separatists were holding more than 20 other gendarmes hostage. The fighting left 19 of the hostage-takers and two gendarmes dead.

Tjibaou, Yeiwene and Jorede were in Ouvéa to take part in the ceremonies when Thursday's attack occurred.

Native Melanesians, known as Kanaks, make up 43 per cent of the inhabitants of New Caledonia, a group of islands 1,600 kilometres east of Australia. Most favour independence, European settlers and their descendants make up 37 per cent, nearly all of whom want to remain part of France.

The rest of the people are Polynesians and Asians, also favourable to retaining the link to France. But the Melanesian population is growing much faster than the others, and is expected to be in the majority again early in the next century.

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## COLUMN

### More equality in Switzerland

BERN (AP) — The Swiss border guard corps will be opened for women in 1990, topping the last civilian male bastion at the federal government level, an official announcement said Tuesday. The Finance Ministry, which controls the border guard, said the move was part of efforts to ensure greater sexual equality in Switzerland, where women got the right to vote in national affairs only in 1971. Women border guards will be barred from paramilitary duties which their male colleagues could assume in a crisis, a ministry statement said. After Tuesday's decision, only certain Defence Ministry activities such as military instruction remain all-male domains, federal personnel office official Mariette Bottinelli said. Angelo Valsangiacomo, head of the border guard, said the opening to women could help ease recent recruiting problems.

### Gunmen arrested during Di visit

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — A man with a gun was arrested outside a train station in South Wales Tuesday while Princess Diana was inside launching an educational train, police said. Reporters at the station in Cardiff said the gun was believed to be a gas-powered air pistol. Buckingham Palace said the princess was only told of the arrest after she left the station. South Wales police said they did not believe there was a direct connection between the royal visit and the unidentified 41-year-old man who was arrested outside the Red Dragon pub on the forecourt of the station, behind a sidewalk security barrier. A staff member at the Red wearing a long coat and holding a shopping bag, was arrested by police.

### Bush announces White House 'lid'

WASHINGTON (R) — The voice on the White House press room loudspeaker Tuesday was familiar but the message was a presidential fist. "Ladies and gentlemen of the press, the president having gone home for the day, there is a lid on," George Bush said. A "lid" is a White House term that means no news is expected and reporters and photographers can safely leave for the day. The announcement of a lid, keenly awaited by denizens of the White House press room at the close of business each day, is ordinarily made by a presidential aide. But Bush did Tuesday (2240 GMT) and asking why journalists were still sitting around. Told that everyone was awaiting a "lid," he picked up a microphone and declared one after getting an explanation of the term. He became the first chief executive in memory to do so.

### Hank Williams' 'daughter' in court

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — A woman who spent several years trying to prove she is the daughter and heir of country music legend Hank Williams Jr. is back in court again. Cathy Deupree Adkinson has filed a \$5-million suit against the estate of her adoptive parents, Wayne and Louise Deupree, claiming she was defrauded. Mrs. Deupree died of cancer in December 1987, shortly after a will was drawn up cutting the plaintiff out of her estate. Wayne Deupree died of cancer in 1983. An attorney for other members of the family denied any fraud. A judge ruled in 1987 that Mrs. Adkinson is "a natural child of Hank Williams Jr.," who recorded songs such as "Your Cheatin' Heart" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." Williams died in 1953, five days before Mrs. Adkinson was born.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	15	59	20 68 Clear
ATHENS	12	54	21 70 Rain
BANGKOK	24	75	35 95 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	37 99 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	09	45	15 61 Cloudy
CAIRO	17	63	30 86 Cloudy
CHICAGO	M	M	M M M
COPENHAGEN	08	46	17 63 Clear
FRANKFURT	08	46	22 72 Clear
GENEVA	07	45	23 73 Clear
HONG KONG	21	70	25 77 Clear
ISTANBUL	12	54	20 68 Cloudy
LONDON	11	52	23 73 Clear
LOS ANGELES	15	59	27 80 Cloudy
MADRID	08	46	28 82 Clear
MEXICO	26	79	41 106 Clear
MIAMI	22	72	30 86 Cloudy
MONTREAL	03	37	30 86 Cloudy
MOSCOW	08	46	10 50 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	25	78	38 100 Clear
NEW YORK	12	53	17 63 Rain
PARIS	12	54	25 77 Clear
ROME	08	43	24 75 Clear
TOKYO	17	63	24 75 Cloudy
VIENNA	13	56	22 72 Clear

M — indicates missing information

By Deborah Zabarenko  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Oliver North verdict is the first chapter in an Iran-contra court saga whose next scheduled episodes involve a retired admiral, two arms dealers — and probably more controversy for George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

The jury, which tried North on 12 criminal charges in the scandal, found him guilty on three counts and innocent of the remaining nine.

North is subject to possible civil penalties of 10 years in prison or \$500,000 in fines or both, a federal judge said in his verdict.

The jury found North guilty of one count of helping to obstruct Congress's efforts to learn about Iran-contra opera-

tions in 1986, one count of shredding official U.S. documents sought by investigators, and one count of personal financial misconduct in accepting the gift of a \$14,000 home security fence.

Next on the Iran-contra docket is retired Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, North's former boss as national security adviser in the Reagan White House.

His trial could begin in September and seems likely to continue where the North proceedings left off in reviving questions of whether Bush, as vice president under Reagan, played a bigger role than he has admitted in covert U.S. efforts to run money and guns

to Nicaragua's contra rebels. Later trials are planned for retired air force Major General Richard Secord and financier

Albert Hakim, key figures in Iran-contra operations run from the White House by North.

North, Poindexter, Secord and Hakim were indicted in March 1988 for their roles in the secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran and the funneling of proceeds to the contras as part of efforts to support the rebels during a ban on official U.S. aid.

North would presumably make a star prosecution witness at the trials of the other three. But it would be difficult to compel him to testify if he were still in appeals from his own case. Prosecutors have refused to discuss their plans.

Poindexter's trial on seven charges could implicate White House higher-ups in a way that North's did not, because three

of the charges — conspiracy, theft and wire fraud — were dropped in North's case but restored for Poindexter's.

These charges go directly to the Iran-contra operations, where North's pertained only to their cover-up and other peripheral activity. They also imply cooperation with others, so that prosecutors would need to produce evidence of who Poindexter's co-conspirators were.

The upcoming trials could also dredge up more documents troublesome for Bush, especially if Congress follows up its threat to launch a new investigation into the scandal.

Leaders of the Iran-contra investigating committee have complained bitterly that documents used at North's trial were not provided forth-

with congressional hearings.

The only actual news about the Iran-contra plan to emerge from North's trial was contained in a government "admission of facts" and memos culled from the files of Poindexter's predecessor as national security adviser, Robert McFarlane.

These documents suggested Bush and Reagan were involved in a deal to give aid to Honduras in exchange for Honduran help for the contras. Bush denied Thursday there was any such deal.

Softening the potential danger